



# NEWSLETTER



**April/May 2011**

**Chittenden/Washington  
County  
USDA Service Center**

**Chittenden/Washington  
County FSA**

802 865-7895 x4  
800 910-2035 x4 (VT only)  
802 865-7947 fax  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/VT](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/VT)

**Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**

Richard Parizo LAA-1  
Daniel Pillsbury LAA-2  
Sumner Farr, Jr LAA-3  
Catherine Scribner LAA-4  
Morgan Churchill LAA-5

**Upcoming County  
Committee Meeting**

June 15, 2011

**FSA Staff**

Bradford Parker x103  
Lawrence Parker x102  
Eileen Powers x106  
Pearl Wells x100

**Natural Resources  
Conservation Service**

Caroline Alves x203  
Heather Dorsey x115  
Tate Jeffrey x119  
Michel Lapointe x118  
Danny Peet x202  
Norman Smith x117  
John Thurgood x204

**Natural Resources  
Conservation District**

Justin Kenny x104

**VT Association of  
Conservation Districts**

Mark Marsh x206

## **2011 FSA County Committee Elections**

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small operation. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

### **Election Period**

June 15, 2011 - The nomination period begins.

Aug. 1, 2011 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center

Nov. 4, 2011 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters

### **Who Can Hold Office**

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate

Not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services

### **Nominations**

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/fsa\\_0669a\\_committeeselectform.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa_0669a_committeeselectform.pdf)

Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate.

Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

### **Who Can Vote**

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who

## 2011 Elections

### LAA-3

**Bolton  
Jericho  
Middlesex  
Richmond  
Underhill  
Waterbury**

### LAA-4

**Barre  
Berlin  
Duxbury  
Fayston  
Moretown  
Northfield  
Plainfield  
Roxbury  
Waitsfield  
Warren**

is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

## **Electricity Savings**

Are you a Vermont farmer who is frustrated by high energy costs? Now you can save energy and money with free engine block heater timers.

Efficiency Vermont and EnSave have teamed up to promote the use of timers for engine block heaters used on farm vehicles during the winter months. Farmers can receive up to **four FREE timers!**

Use of a timer on engine block heaters allows the heaters to run for just a few hours prior to use of the vehicle, reducing electricity consumption, therefore reducing your electric bill.

To learn more about how to receive your free timers **call EnSave at 1-800-732-1399.**

## **NAP Loss Filing**

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 in the FSA County Office ***within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.***

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## **Cold Storage Facility Loans**

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and include:

- New structures suitable for a cold storage facility;

- New walk-in, prefabricated, permanently-installed coolers suitable for storing fresh fruits and vegetables;
- New permanently affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment;
- Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility;
- An addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

USDA will not make cold storage facility loans for portable structures, portable handling and cooling equipment, used or pre-owned structures, cooling equipment or structures deemed unsuitable.

The maximum loan amount for a Farm Storage Facility loan is \$500,000 per loan, which requires a down payment of at least 15 percent. Applications must be approved before construction can begin. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan.

For more information on this program or other FSA farm programs please contact the local FSA county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## **Hispanic and Women Farmers**

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

### **•Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims**

**Process, please visit:**

[www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov) or call 1-888-508-4429

### **•Pigford – The Black Farmers**

**Discrimination Litigation, please visit:**

[www.blackfarmercase.com](http://www.blackfarmercase.com) or call 1-866-950-5547

### **•Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:**

[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com) or call 1-888-233-5506

## **Farm Record Changes**

June 1, 2011 is the deadline to provide changes to your farm records at the local FSA office for the 2011 crop year. If you are ***changing your operation entity type (for example becoming an LLC or becoming a General Partnership), adding or dropping cropland property that you operate on, or adding entities to your operation (for example adding another person to your farm management team)***, contact the FSA county office by **June 1.**

**LAA MAP IS ON THIS PAGE  
IN THE MAILING!**

**Nomination form was  
inserted.**

Chittenden/Washington County FSA Office  
1193 S Brownell Rd STE 35  
Williston, Vt 05495-7416  
*Return Service Requested*



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Mailed From Zip Code 05495  
PERMIT #40

***Due to budget constraints, there will be no acreage reporting done in the Berlin Office!***

Selected Interest Rates for May 2011	
Conservation Loan	5.0%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.0%
Limited Resource	5.0%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	2.875%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	3.500%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	3.75%

Dates to Remember	
May 30	Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 1	Deadline for Farm Record Changes
June 1	ACRE Signup Ends
June 1	2011 DCP Enrollment Ends
June 15	COC Meeting – 10 a.m.
July 4	Independence Day – Office Closed

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.